

EUGENE Weekly Dance



Mosaica De Danza at the Hult

BY RACHAEL CARNES/OCTOBER 13, 2005

Ballet Fantastique, under the artistic direction of Donna Marisa Bontrager, recently received a grant through the Lane Arts Council to produce a collaborative Hult Center performance with Traduza Dance Company, a modern group based in Roseburg. Coupling classical ballet with a Spanish flair and the bossa nova beats of Traduza director Valéria Ball's native Brazil, Mosaico de Danza, looks for a new rhythm that hovers between the traditionally lyrical and the rambunctiously sexy. Performance is at 7 pm on 10/15 in the Hult Center's Soreng Theater.

Spanish-inspired ballet variations bridge the evening's work. Ballet Fantastique shows off its plumage with excerpts from *Don Quixote*, one of the most famous works of ballet great Marius Petipa. Originally billed as a farce, *Don Quixote* receives a fresh treatment by this company, even as they lovingly emulate the Kirov's artistry.

Threading among the classical pieces, Traduza Dance Company's brand of Brazilian modern dance enlivens with accessible sensuality and verve. The company's choreography falls short of heavyweights like Petipa, but it's likeable nonetheless.

Gia Kourlas, *The New York Times* dance critic, recently (7/12/05) lamented that contemporary ballet serves no one, that it simply combines the hubris of both modern dance and ballet. Shocking many but pleasing some, too, Ms. Kourlas wrote, "As regressive as it sounds, choreography might be in a healthier place if the ballet world went back to despising modern dance."

Ballet Fantastique and Traduza Dance shimmy around this roadblock by offering a new perspective: allow audiences to find the connections between the old and the new, by showing ballet and modern in stark relief.